



SDMS Doc ID 2036956

2036956

FAXED 3/21/03

Kevin Mayer
Environmental Engineer - Superfund
Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 - 75 Hawthorne
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

Dear Kevin:

Karen Worth at the Washington EPA gave me your phone number today. I represent a community of concerned citizens in Norco, California - Riverside County. We have recently learned that a hazardous testing facility within our neighborhood has contaminated the State's groundwater with perchlorate - among many other contaminants such as TCE, PCE, DCE, NDMA, Hydrazine, etc. In light of Senator Diane Feinstein's recent request from the EPA to help her identify "those responsible for the (perchlorate) pollution", we would like the EPA to investigate this facility:

Wyle Laboratories - 1841 Hillside Avenue - Norco, California 92860

EPA conducted a preliminary site assessment in 1988. Although the inspector "was unable to view the site", a final determination of NFRAP, "no further remedial action planned" was given. This conclusion was based on many "assumptions" that are not true now:

- low waste quality
- low groundwater target population
- no surface water drainage from the site
- lack of surface water target population ("no surface water adjacent to site")
- low potential for air release (however, the air route was not addressed).

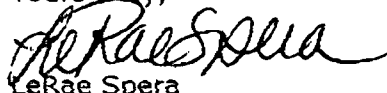
Since 1988, the following facts are now KNOWN about this facility and its property:

- It is a large quantity generator of hazardous waste per RCRA.
- It has been cited by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board for contaminating the State's groundwaters (see attached results).
- Wyle has an ephemeral stream running through its 425 acres.
- The run-off from this facility pools into our new community in the form of a pond.
- Lead contamination up to 12,000 ppm was found as early as last year!!

We believe this information clearly indicates a need for the EPA to perform a new site assessment. We request your response on what will be done about this facility. I have enclosed a copy of their most recent groundwater sampling results for your information.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,



LeRae Spera

President - (INSIST)

Involved Neighbors Seeking Information, Safety & Truth - (714) 573-8669

WYLE LABS - NORCO, CA. - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wyle Laboratories has been exposing its neighbors in ways that have threatened their health, safety and welfare. In addition to performing hazardous testing operations, its property and groundwater have been contaminated with various VOC's (TCE, DCE PCE, Vinyl Chloride), Perchlorate, NDMA, etc.

Wyle has been classified as a hazardous testing facility; its activities over the past 50 years have caused severe contamination. It is located adjacent to new and existing homes. Wyle has permits to handle, store, generate or use hazardous chemicals, radioactive materials, and various explosives. Their testing can include detonating of warheads, weapons, rockets, missiles, and high level explosives. Recently, they performed explosions that caused a release of hazardous levels of lead. DTSC found these levels to be almost 30 times the allowable limit - 12,000 mg/kg!! This contamination remained unremediated and EXPOSED for over 8 months - during some of the highest wind storms we've encountered for years!!

Throughout the month of March 2003, neighbors have heard "massive" explosions. Wyle representatives explained that this sound was an "error" in a fuel test. On June 24, 2001 a detonation by Wyle caused the hazardous waste levels of lead mentioned previously.

On March 19, 2003, members of the community appeared before the Norco City Council asking them to revoke Wyle's detonation test permit (and open burn) permits. This is an urgent situation! Under these permits, Wyle can and has ignited warheads, rockets, munitions, class A, B or C explosives, etc. less than 400 feet from homes!! Many residents are scared to death. Children no longer feel safe playing in their own back yards. Residents cannot ride their horses for fear of injury from these explosions. In fact, some residents cannot even board their horses in the neighborhood because of Wyle's increased activities. The community is living in a war zone...

On June 19, 2002, the City reissued Wyle's detonation permit, reporting "there was no evidence to show why they shouldn't". However, alarming "evidence" discovered just 2 weeks ago shows why these permits should be revoked IMMEDIATELY. Although Wyle has sold its property, it will continue these tests until the developer has its residential development planned.

As a community action group, our goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of Wyle's neighbors. A meeting has been arranged by Penny Newman of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice to discuss this effort.

OUR IMMEDIATE GOAL IS TO CREATE A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT ENSURES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR FAMILIES AND PROTECTS OUR PROPERTY VALUES AND THE INVESTMENTS OF OUR HOMES. In order to achieve this, we will:

- Address Wyle's current activities and explosions.
 - Investigate Wyle's on site contamination.
 - Explore Wyle's off-site contamination into the community.
 - Demand an appropriate and comprehensive clean-up of Wyle property.
- WE WILL INSIST THAT THOSE OF US MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THIS SITE HAVE AN OPEN AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN ALL DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES.

3/22/03 4:00pm, Corona Public Library - 650 S. Main Street, Corona, Ca.
Go to WWW.CCAEJ.ORG or Call ((909) 360-8451

ACTUAL RESULTS OF WYLE GROUNDWATER SAMPLES 4/2002

**Detected Volatile Organic Compounds in
Groundwater Through April 2002
Wyle Laboratories - Norco, California**

Well Number	Date Sampled	VOCs (µg/l)							Other			Notes
		PCE	TCE	cis-1,2-DCE	trans-1,2-DCE	VC	Freon 113	Toluene	Hydrazine ⁽³⁾ (µg/l)	NDMA (ng/l)	Perchlorate (µg/l)	
MW-7	05/10/99	71	88	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0		<5.0				
	11/30/99	79	198	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0		<5.0	<5.0			(3)
	06/27/00	88.9	485	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	6.72	76.6	<0.06			(2)
	12/06/01	29	800	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0				3.5		
	04/04/02	28	1,000	<5.0	<5.0	<20	<20	<5.0		<2.0	<3.0	
MW-8	05/10/99	<0.5	150	73	<5.0	<5.0		<5.0	14			
	11/30/99	5.2	191	45	26	<5.0		<5.0	<5.0			(3)(5)
	06/27/00	5.12	262	89.0	47.2	<5.0	5.45	24.3	<0.06			(2)
	12/06/01	0.91	37	100	24	<1.0				<2.0		
	04/04/02	1.3	59	110	53	2.1	<2.0	<0.5		2.5	<3.0	(8)
MW-9	12/06/01	12	1500	12	<10	<10						
	04/04/02	14	1800	12	<10	<40	<40	<10		<2.0	<3.0	
MW-10	12/06/01	15	410	7.6	<5.0	<5.0						
	04/04/02	17	800	11	<5.0	<20	<20	<5.0		<2.0	<3.0	
MW-11	12/06/01	14	1100	38	<10	<10						
	04/04/02	5.5	190	12	<0.5	<2.0	<2.0	<0.5		<2.0	3.5	(7)
MW-13	12/06/01	<25	2900	<50	<50	<50				<2.0		
	12/06/01	<25	3100	<50	<50	<50				<2.0		(DUP)
	04/04/02	64	4800	51	<25	<100	<100	<25		<2.0	<6.0	
MCL		5	5	6	10	0.5	1,200	150		0.002		(6)

Table Key:

TCE	Trichloroethene	DCE	Dichloroethene
PCE	Tetrachloroethene	VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
NDMA	N-Nitroso-dimethylamine		
Freon 113	Trichlorotrifluoroethane		

Table Notes:

Shaded cell indicates sample was not tested for the given constituent.

Table shows only analytes that were detected in at least one water sample.

(1) Roots in well prevented sampling.

(2) Hydrazine by method 8315m with a detection limit of 0.06 µg/l and a reporting limit of 1.0 µg/l.

(3) Hydrazine by colorimetric method (ASTM D1385-88).

(4) cis-1,3-dichloropropane detected at 76.8 µg/l.

(5) Trichlorofluoromethane detected at 5.3 µg/l.

(6) MCL not set for NDMA. In December 2001, DHS adjusted its NDMA action level. It is 0.02 µg/l for NDMA that is the result of drinking water treatment processes or in water that results from recycling projects for indirect potable use. The action level is 0.002 µg/l when NDMA is not associated drinking water treatment processes or in water that results from recycling projects for indirect potable reuse, or when its origins are unknown.

(7) MTBE was detected in this well at 1.4 µg/l.

(8) 1,1-Dichloroethene was detected at 0.57 µg/l in MW-8 and 0.50 µg/l in MW-8 (DUP).

Please note: cis-1,2DCE and trans-1,2DCE are perchlorate indicators

FEB-25-2003 14:18

DTSC STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE

818 551 2850 F.02.02



Del Mar Analytical

2852 Alton Ave., Irvine, CA 92606 (949) 261-1022 FAX (949) 261-1228
 1014 E. Coolley Dr., Suite A, Colton, CA 92324 (909) 370-4667 FAX (909) 370-1046
 8484 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 805, San Diego, CA 92123 (619) 505-8596 FAX (619) 505-9689
 9830 South 51st St., Suite B-120, Phoenix, AZ 85044 (480) 785-0043 FAX (480) 785-0851
 2520 E. Sunset Rd., #3, Las Vegas, NV 89120 (702) 798-3620 FAX (702) 798-3621

Environ-Irvine
 2010 Main Street, 9th Floor
 Irvine, CA 92614
 Attention: Devon Rowe

Project ID: Wyle Laboratory
 04-80991

Report Number: ILC0193

Sampled: 03/05/02

Received: 03/05/02

METALS

Analyte	Method	Batch	Reporting Limit	Sample Result	Dilution Factor	Date Extracted	Date Analyzed	Data Qualifiers
			mg/kg	mg/kg				
Sample ID: ILC0193-21 (SB-21 - Soil)								
Antimony	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	20	310	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Arsenic	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	4.0	6.7	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Barium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	160	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Beryllium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	ND	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Cadmium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	2.1	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Chromium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	1800	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Cobalt	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	29	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Copper	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	4.0	300	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Lead	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	20	12000	10	3/8/2002	3/11/2002	
Mercury	EPA 7471A	I2C0884	0.020	0.059	1	3/8/2002	3/8/2002	
Molybdenum	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	4.0	51	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Nickel	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	4.0	860	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Selenium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	4.0	ND	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Silver	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	ND	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Thallium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	20	ND	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Vanadium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	56	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Zinc	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	10	130	2	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Sample ID: ILC0193-22 (SB-21-1 - Soil)								
Antimony	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	10	68	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Arsenic	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Barium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	95	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Beryllium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	0.50	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Cadmium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	0.50	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Chromium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	140	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Cobalt	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	6.5	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Copper	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	120	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Lead	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	6.0	2800	3	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Mercury	EPA 7471A	I2C0884	0.020	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/8/2002	
Molybdenum	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	3.1	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Nickel	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	69	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Selenium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	2.0	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Silver	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Thallium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	10	ND	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Vanadium	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	1.0	28	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	
Zinc	EPA 6010B	I2C0873	5.0	95	1	3/8/2002	3/10/2002	



CITY of NORCO

CITY HALL 2870 CLARK AVENUE (909) 735-3900, FAX (909) 270-5622 P.O. BOX 428, NORCO, CA 92860-0428

DETONATION TEST PERMIT

Permitee: Wyle Laboratories
Address: 1841 Hillside Avenue
Norco, CA 92860

Permit Number: 2001-01
Issue Date: June 21, 2001
Expiration Date: June 21, 2002

Attention: Gary D. Montgomery
Facility Safety Officer

Authorized Use:

- Test Specimens - Warheads, Full-up Rounds, Small Rockets, Missile Components, Submunitions, Fuses, Explosive Components Including Explosives Class A, B or C
- Explosive Limit - 10 Pounds High Explosives at Ground Level or 50 Pounds Below Surface Maximum
- Test Hours - 0700 to 1900 Hours, Clear Weather Only
- Test Personnel - Current Blaster's Licenses Issued by State of California
- Storage - Overnight Storage Requires Fire Department Permit.

Test Notification Procedure:

From Wyle Laboratories: Gary D. Montgomery
Facility Safety Officer
(909) 737-0871 Ext. 531

To City of Norco Joseph S. Schenk
Office of Director of Public Works
(909) 270-5627

Fire Department
(909) 737-8097 or (909) 735-3921 if no answer

Notification: Verbal Notification One (1) Working Day Prior to Test

Date: June 21, 2001

By: Joseph S. Schenk
Joseph S. Schenk, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

/32661

CITY COUNCIL

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Council Member

CCA EJ I-N-S-I-S-T

Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Involved Neighbors Seeking Information, Safety & Truth
(909) 360-8451

FASCIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: 3/21/03

To: EPA

From: LeRae Spear

Re: Wyu Labs

Number of Pages (including cover sheet) 7

Comments:

Thanks for your
review,
LeRae